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peregrine falcon productivity survey

1983 Peregrine Falcon Productivity Survey Adjacent
to TAPS
Gilliam, James K.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALASKA STATE OFFICE
OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
701 C Street, Box 30
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

MEMORANDUM TO FILE (914)

August 2, 1983

FROM: James K. Gilliam, OSP Ecologist/ Alt. AOFR

SUBJECT: 1983 Peregrine Falcon Productivity Survey Adjacent to TAPS

Mr. Jim Silva, Wildlife Biologist, FDO/Arctic Resource Area and myself conducted a peregrine falcon productivity survey adjacent to TAPS during July 27 through July 30, 1983. Five of six active nest sites observed on a June 1983 Silva/Gilliam survey were revisited to ascertain their productivity. Two of three nest sites at Franklin Bluffs on State land were surveyed at the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No banding at nest sites on BLM administered lands was attempted.

Results

A. FRANKLIN BLUFFS (State lands):

Northern Nest - Not revisited on this survey

Middle Nest - One (1) young

Southern Nest - Four (4) young

B. Sagwon Bluffs (BLM administered):

Northern Nest - Four (4) young

Southern Nest - Three (3) young

C. Slope Mountain (BLM administered):

Southern Nest - One (1) young

Discussion

The productivity of the five nests visited was:

2.6 young/total pair

which is well above the 1.4 ratio considered the low normal for a healthy population of tundra peregrine falcons.

The nest at Slope Mountain was a pleasant surprise for several reasons:

1. This was a previously unrecorded nest site for peregrine falcons;

2. The nest was successful less than 1/2 mile from TAPS; and
3. The single observed young's phenology was much more advanced than at any other nest site. The young was just able to glide short distances and was being fed by the parents at a location away from the nest site. OSP and Alyeska are gathering an outline of all TAPS Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities which occurred in the vicinity of Slope Mountain from April 15 to August 31, 1983 as background to a possible study of peregrine falcon habituation to current TAPS O&M.

Jim Silva will be producing a more detailed BLM open file report this fall covering all surveys of peregrine falcons on BLM administered lands in the Arctic Resource Area. This winter, OSP and the FDO, in consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, are tentatively planning to review the adequacy of the present peregrine falcon restrictions on TAPS O&M activities.

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